Airways are presently operating from Thiruvananthapuram airport to various destinations in Gulf whereas Silk Air and Sri Lankan airlines are operating from Thiruvananthapuram to Singapore and Colombo respectively. In addition, the designated airlines of South Africa, Israel and Uzbekistan have necessary rights to operate to Thiruvananthapuram but have not yet done so. Although no foreign airlines are operating to Nedumpassery (Cochin) at present. The designated airline of Turkmenistan has been granted Cochin as an additional point of call. Cochin has also been offered to the designated airline of Saudi Arabia as a point of call in place of Chennai. Further a commitment has also been given during air services consultations with UAE (Dubai) in May, 2000 that Emirates will be granted access either to Thiruvananthapuram or Cochin as nominated by the Government of India effective September, 2002.

Resignation of Chief Pilots from Alliance Air

4107. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four Chief Pilots resigned from the Alliance Air;

(b) if so, the reasons for such resignations; and

(c) whether Government have initiated recruitment process for filling up of vacancies caused due to resignations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Three Chief Pilots and one Training Captain (Instructo[r]) resigned from the services of Alliance Air in January/ February, 2001.

(b) These Pilots have resigned to join foreign airlines.

(c) Three Senior Captains have recently been promoted a$ Chief Pilots to fill up the vacancies. Two Training Captains (Check pilots) have been upgraded as Instructors/Examiners.